

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: EB/TD:JJO'NEILL:SP

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FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 6802 ACTION SECSTATE 04 SEPT

QUOTE

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EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL ITU

SUBJ: ITUGC LF/MF CONFERENCE -- VIEWS OF TOP OFFICIALS

1. FOLLOWING COMMENTS REPRESENT VIEWS OF TOP ITU OFFICIALS CONCERNING MAJOR DIFFICULTIES LIKELY TO RISE AT SUBJECT CONFERENCE. OFFICIALS WERE ALL CONTACTED BETWEEN AUGUST 20 AND SEPTEMBER 3.

2. SYG MILI: MAIN PROBLEMS LIKELY TO BE DISPUTES BETWEEN USSR
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AND NEIGHBORS, CHINA TO A GREATER DEGREE AND OTHER ASIANS AND WESTERN EUROPEANS TO LESSER DEGREE. HE FORESAW USSR-CHINA DISPUTE AS POSSIBLY SINGLE MOST OUTSTANDING PROBLEM OF CONFERENCE. OTHER DIFFICULTY HE FORESAW WAS ATTEMPT BY LDCA IN AFRICAN REGION

TO ACQUIRE MORE CHANNELS AT EXPENSE OF EUROPEANS WHO THEY BELIEVE HAVE MORE THAN THEIR RIGHTFUL SHARE. MILI DID NOT MENTION MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND WHEN QUIRIED ABOUT IT MERELY REPLIED THAT HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME A MAJOR ISSUE.

3. DEPUTY SYG BUTLER: THOUGHT MAJOR PROBLEM COULD BE REOPENING OF 9 KHZ CHANNEL SPACING ISSUE WHICH HAD BEEN DECIDED AT FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE. IF THIS MATTER WERE REOPENED, NO TELLING HOW CONFERENCE MIGHT GO. RE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE, HE MERELY NOTED THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT ARISEN AT FIRST SESSION OF CONFERENCE AND HE HOPED IT WOULD NOT ASSUME MAJOR PROPORTIONS AT UPCOMING SESSION, ALTHOUGH HE REALIZED THAT SUBJECT COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. HE BELIEVED MOST MAJOR FREQUENCY DISPUTES COULD BE SETTLED ON BILATERAL BASIS AND ADDED THAT SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL OFFICIAL (COMIC OF IFRB) BEING ASSIGNED FULL TIME FOR DURATION OF CONFERENCE TO ASSIST WITH THESE PROJECTED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND THAT SEVERAL ROOMS IN HEADQUARTERS BUILDING BEING SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE. NOTE: BUTLER WAS ALSO ADVISED OF US PLANS TO SEND SMALL TEAM TO BE PRESENT IN GENEVA DURING CONFERENCE TO ASSIST PARTICIPANTS IN PROTECTING US UTILIZED FREQUENCIES AS REQUESTED. HE WAS ASSURED THAT TEAM WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT CONFERENCE HALL AND THAT ONLY US PERSON THERE WOULD BE US MISSION OFFICER ON SAME BASIS AS PREVIOUS SESSION OF CONFERENCE. BUTLER WAS IN ACCORD WITH US INTENTIONS.

4. ACTING CHAIRMAN OF IFRB GROMOV. (IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN BERADA WHO WAS ON LEAVE) SHARED BUTLER'S VIEW THAT OUTCOME OF CONFERENCE WOULD DEPEND ON CHANNEL SPACING ISSUE; INDEED HE FELT IF ISSUE WAS REOPENED IT COULD CONSUME SO MUCH TIME THAT CONFERENCE WOULD FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE WORK. HE ADMITTED THAT ONE OF MAJOR PROBLEMS WOULD BE USSR-PRC FREQUENCY DISPUTES; HE SAID THAT SOVIETS NOW CONDUCTING BILATERALS WITH IRAN, PAKISTAN, INDIA AND NORTH KOREA BUT THAT CHINESE HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO SOVIET INVITATIONS TO DISCUSS MATTER AND THAT MANY OVERLAPS EXISTED. GROMOV NOTED THAT HE ADVISED BY USSR AUTHORITIES THAT SOVIETS WILL TRY TO ELIMINATE 1196 KHZ MINSK INTERFERENCE WITH VOA GERMANY AND HOPES PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED BEFORE START OF CONFERENCE. HE ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NOTED THAT USSR MISSION HAD SENT PROTEST TO ITU CONCERNING FRG SUBMISSIONS FOR WEST BERLIN. GROMOV WAS HOPEFUL HERE TOO THAT BERLIN PROBLEM COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT BECOMING SERIOUS ISSUE AT CONFERENCE. HE SHARED BUTLER'S VIEW THAT MANY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS APPEARED TO BE BILATERAL IN NATURE AND COULD BE SOLVED ON BILATERAL BASIS DURING CONFERENCE. GROMOV REALIZED MIDDLE EAST ISSUE COULD BE A PROBLEM, BUT HOPED THAT EGYPT-ISRAEL WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT MIGHT DIFFUSE ISSUE SOMEWHAT.

5. CCIR DIRECTOR KIRBY; BELIEVED THAT MAJOR PROBLEM AT CONFERENCE WILL BE USSR DIFFICULTIES WITH NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY CHINA. ANOTHER DIFFICULT SITUATION WILL BE LDC EFFORTS TO OBTAIN GREATER

NUMBERS OF CHANNEL ASSIGNMENTS AT IXPENSE OF EUROPEANS. HE AGREED WITH BUTLER AND GROMOV THAT IF CHANNEL SPACING ISSUE WERE REOPENED IT COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT COURSE OF CONFERENCE, BUT HE IS NOT AS CONVINCED AS GROMOV THAT ISSUE WILL IN FACT BE REOPENED AT LEAST AS REGARDS MF BROADCASTING. KIRBY STATED HE WAS ASSURED AT RECENT CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION THAT WHILE WESTERN EUROPEANS NOT HAPPY WITH 9 KHZ COMPROMISE REACHED AT 1974 SESSION THEY WOULD NOT REOPEN ISSUE THEMSELVES. IF, HOWEVER, OTHERS REOPENED QUESTION, EUROPEANS PREPARED TO RESUME FIGHT FOR 8 KHZ SPACING. TE ADDED THAT DUTCH CONSIDERING REOPENING SPACING QUESTION RE LF BROADCASTING BUT ADDED THAT LF SPACING NOT NEARLY AS CRITICAL A QUESTION AS MF.

6. MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO CONTACT HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS ON LF/MF CONFERENCE AND IN PARTICULAR ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS MATTERS WITH IFRB CHAIRMAN BERRADA AND IFRB MEMBER PERRIN, WHO BOTH CURRENTLY ON LEAVE. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS UNFOLD. ABRAMS UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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